Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-23 (Canceled)

24. (New) A method for culturing, propagating and replicating, *in vitro,* the hepatitis C virus or the hepatitis G virus, according to which there is at least one lipo-viro-particles (LVP) fraction obtained from serum or from plasma of a patient infected with at least one virus selected from the group consisting of the hepatitis C virus and the hepatitis G virus, and said fraction is brought into contact with permissive cells having at least one receptor for lipoproteins, for a predetermined period of time in a suitable culture medium containing an activating agent selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated fatty acid and a derivative of an unsaturated fatty acid, said fatty acid comprising from 16 to 20 carbon atoms or a mixture thereof.

25. (New) A method for culturing, propagating and replicating, *in vitro*, the hepatitis C virus or the hepatitis G virus, according to which there is at least one lipo-viro-particles (LVP) fraction, associated with human immunoglobulins, obtained from serum or from plasma of a patient infected with at least one virus selected from the group consisting of the hepatitis C virus and the hepatitis G virus, and said fraction is brought into contact with permissive cells having at least one receptor for lipoproteins, for a predetermined period of time in a suitable culture medium containing an activating agent selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated fatty acid and a derivative of an unsaturated fatty acid, said fatty acid comprising from 16 to 20 carbon atoms or a mixture thereof.

26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 24, in which the receptor for lipoproteins is the lipolysis-stimulated receptor and/or the surface receptor for low density lipoproteins.

27. (New) The method as claimed in claim 24, in which the unsaturated fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of oleic acid, palmitoleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, arachidonic acid, transhexadecenoic acid and elaidic acid, or derivatives thereof.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 27, in which the fatty acid is oleic acid, which is added to said culture medium at a concentration of between 0.1 and 1 mM.

29. (New) The method as claimed in claim 27, in which the fatty acid is oleic acid, which is added to said culture medium at a concentration of 0.5 mM.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 24, in which the permissive cells are selected from the group consisting of primary human or animal hepatocyte cells, cells chosen from the human or animal hepatocarcinoma cell line group, dendritric cells, macrophage cells, Kuppfer cells and combinations thereof which may or may not be associated with lymphocytes.

31. (New) The method as claimed in claim 30, in which the permissive cells are human hepatocarcinoma cells of the PLC/PRF/5 cell line.

32. (New) The method as claimed in claim 24, in which the culture medium comprises, besides the ingredients required for culturing and the fatty acid or the derivative of the fatty acid, an apoptosis-modulating agent.

33. (New) The method as claimed in claim 32, in which the apoptosis-modulating agent is selected from the group consisting of interferons, anti-interferons and anti-caspases 3.

34. (New) The method as claimed in claim 24, in which the medium is DMEM medium, or a medium derived from DMEM medium, RPMI medium or a derivative of RPMI medium.

35. (New) The method as claimed in claim 34, in which the medium is DMEM medium supplemented with 0 to 10 mM of sodium pyruvate, 0 to 10% of nonessential amino

acids, 1 to 10 mM of glutamine, 100 to 200 U/ml of penicillin, 100 to 200 mg/ml of streptomycin and 1 to 20% of calf serum.

36. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, in which the medium is supplemented with 0.1 to 0.5% of BSA or with 0.1 to 0.5% of HSA coupled to a fatty acid.

37. (New) The method as claimed in claim 24, in which, after bringing the permissive cells and said LVP fraction into contact, said permissive cells thus infected are subcultured several times and the presence of said virus is demonstrated in the permissive cells by RT-PCR and/or by an immunological technique.

38. (New) A method for obtaining antibodies or antibody fragments directed against a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis C virus and hepatitis G virus, according to which an animal is immunized with viral particles or polypeptides obtained using a culturing method as claimed in claim 24.

39. (New) A diagnostic composition comprising at least the antibodies obtained according to the method defined in claim 38.

40. (New) A diagnostic kit also comprising a composition as defined in claim 39.

41. (New) A method for screening and/or selecting at least one antiviral molecule, according to which infected permissive cells are obtained in accordance with claim 24 and said antiviral molecule is brought into contact with said infected permissive cells.

42. (New) A method for preparing a composition for detecting, in a sample, antibodies directed against at least one virus selected from the group consisting of the hepatitis C virus and the hepatitis G virus, which comprises a purification of serum or plasma wherein at least one lipo-viro-particules fraction associated with human immunoglobulins is purified by using either protein A or a polypeptide obtained by a culturing method as claimed in claim 25.

43. (New) The method as claimed in claim 42, in which said viral particles or said polypeptides are attached to a solid support.

44. (New) A diagnostic composition comprising at least the viral particles or the polypeptides obtained according to the method defined in claim 42.

45. (New) A diagnostic kit also comprising a composition as defined in claim 44.

46. (New) An immunization composition comprising at least the viral particles or the polypeptides obtained according to the method defined in claim 42, associated with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle and/or excipient and/or adjuvant.